

HOMES FOR ALL

As the last battles of the Western war are being fought out, men's thoughts turn homeward. At Olympia the man in uniform is being shown the civilian outfit he will receive on passing out of the Services. He is rightly anxious that this longed-for suit shall be smart and presentable; but he knows that something far more important than a new suit is necessary for his wellbeing in the post-war world. He wants a home.

One commanding officer recently sent out a questionnaire among his men to discover what they were thinking about the post-war world. What did they most want? Ninety-two per cent of them replied that they were looking forward to having a home.

The C N has more than once referred to this vital need, this first requisite for post-war happiness in Britain, and makes no apology for doing so again. Homes matter most of all. Home is the foundation of our national wellbeing. If the homes of the people are inadequate, then the nation will be unequal to its responsibilities. Given a happy home, a family can face the world with gallantry and courage. If that basis for the finest life is missing, then we may expect an increase of social problems and social misfits.

THE right house, of course, does not necessarily make the right home. But it goes a long way towards it. Homes with sufficient light, air, space, and privacy, give more chance of a friendly, happy life than cramped, dirty dwellings where makeshift and insecurity create an atmosphere of indolence and apathy.

It is significant that the Government has changed its policy from the provision of temporary houses to the building of permanent ones. That is a recognition of the paramount place of house and home in the making of a post-war Britain. While a temporary home is better than none at all, only a permanent home can give that sense of security so essential in the making of character.

Home is still the chief training-ground of human character. It still outweighs all that school and college, educationist and teacher, can do. Its influence on the child is felt in subtle ways which formal teaching and instruction never reach, and, however much

influence a school may have on a child, the home must have infinitely more.

A nation's homes make a nation. There may be admirable public services to ensure good health, efficient education, and adequate recreation, but if the home is neglected then the bed-rock basis of national character goes. What we do now in providing houses may well decide what kind of men and women are to be our leaders in the future.

BRITAIN needs an additional million houses—quickly; and when they are provided there will at least be a private dwelling for each family. Then at last we shall be able to tackle afresh the horrors of housing which still remain with us as relics of former bad days when so many of Britain's people lived, or existed, in back-to-back hovels and dark tenements.

We need homes, too, with individual character. The long, drab rows of industrial Britain are out-of-date, relics of a barbarous age when human life was considered less important than industrial profit, when the more "hands" that could be accommodated cheaply near the factory, the more cheaply could our goods be sold. We now realise that human health and happiness must come before profits and markets.

Homes for All is the keystone in the arch of Britain's post-war life. Provide them and we provide a basis for all the high endeavour which the nation will be called on to give. A man will work long and valiantly if he knows that behind him is the affection and happiness of a home he has helped to create. It gives him a base of operations from which he is ready to explore, to dare, to venture, to risk. It is also his harbour, his anchorage.

MUCH of Britain's greatness has been achieved by men and women who from the security of comfortable homes have gone forth on spacious undertakings. By far the majority of Britain's greatest men have had the secure foundation of a happy home life. That basis must now be the right and heritage of all our people, and not the privilege of the few. To secure it should be the first of our post-war aims because on it rest all the hopes and dreams of our future greatness.

EGYPT GOES TO SCHOOL

It is in keeping with Egypt's determination to be heard more in world councils that she has started a literacy campaign. Illiteracy is to be wiped out in the ancient land of the Pharaohs, and in the next few years many millions of Egyptians will go to school.

The plan affects all illiterate males between the ages of thirteen and forty-five, and will later include females from twelve to twenty-five. There will be classes for two hours a day, five days a week, and for nine months of the year.

This huge scheme involves more than twice the number of persons at present receiving instruction in the whole educational system. The number of student-hours planned is about equal to the present number of pupil-hours in elementary schools. It is clear that, in order to cope with a task of these dimensions, far-reaching administrative arrangements must be made, and they involve the close co-operation of the Ministries of Social

Affairs, Health, Interior, and Education.

All kinds of buildings are being pressed into service as schools—lecture-halls, mosques, churches, and private buildings. All illiterates are to be registered, and employers and landowners will be responsible for the education of their employees. Factories and business houses with more than thirty workers will have to pay for classes. Landowners with holdings of over 200 acres will have to do the same if the cost is not more than three per cent of their land tax. The Prisons Department will be responsible for the education of prisoners with terms exceeding nine months.

If illiterates do not attend classes they are liable to fines and possible imprisonment. If after four years anyone in Government service has not qualified for the literacy certificate he will be dismissed.

Egypt is determined to see that her people are fit to play their part in the post-war world.

Currant Affairs

BUNS and suet puddings are among the delectable things that will profit by the return of peace to Greece and her islands. It is chiefly from there that we obtain the currants of commerce.

Currants were not known by that name when first they were brought to England. Grown to perfection in those days only at the head, and on the southern shores, of the Gulf of Corinth and in the neighbourhood of Corinth itself, they were Raisins of Corauntz to our medieval ancestors. John Ray, the Essex blacksmith's son who became a University don and our first great naturalist, a contemporary of Milton, noted in his writings that the word had become currans, "in the vulgar tongue."

To the botanist this currant is a dried, seedless grape. Our own red, white, and black currants were so named from a fancied resemblance to the original corauntz, but they, of course, belong to a very different type, and grow, not like the true currants on vines, but on bushes.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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Daffodil Time

A jolly girl hiker in the Lake District with some of the flowers that inspired Wordsworth's famous poem written at his home among the Lakes.

FAIR DAFFODILS

THE daffodils are out, and Sir Goronwy Owen, MP for Caernarvonshire, spoke in due season when recently he asked Mr Attlee, Deputy Prime Minister, whether the daffodil might be sanctioned officially as the floral emblem of his nation and adopted as the Royal Badge for Wales. The fair daffodil is certainly a more pleasant badge than the pungent leek.

In Wales today, as elsewhere, bevvies of the lovely flowers are merrily waving their yellow heads beside the streams and in the fields. Their beauty, however, always brings to us a tinge of sadness because it is so soon to depart. Herrick, in his famous sonnet, expressed this sadness as he began: Fair daffodils, we weep to see you haste away so soon . . .

The name, too, has a gloomy origin; it is derived from asphodel and was formerly spelt affodill, and the asphodel, which grows round the Mediterranean, was by the ancient peoples connected always with death and the underworld. But our daffodil is no close relation of the asphodel. It belongs to the amaryllis family, and its near cousins are two other beloved blooms, the narcissus and the snowdrop. Another old name for it is Lent Lily.

Although it has always delighted poets, others in the past seem not to have loved it so well, for a naturalist, writing in 1838, surprisingly describes daffodils as having an unpleasant smell, poisonous properties, and "invariably the outcasts of gardens."

Raising a Tiger Family

WHEN Mrs Fred Martini appears in the Lion House at New York's Bronx Zoo three lively tigers greet her with evident glee.

They are the ten-month-old cubs Ranaganj, Rajpur, and Dacca, and Mrs Martini (wife of the keeper of the lion house) made zoo history by being their foster-mother. They were only one day old when they were taken away from their mother, a magnificent tigress named Jenny, who had never proved a good mother, and moved to Mrs Martini's apartment. Ranaganj, Rajpur, and Dacca soon became as domesticated as puppies. For the first four months they were on the bottle, and Mrs Martini was kept busy making a concoction of evaporated milk, water, and lime, with cod liver oil added.

The first attempt at teaching the tiger cubs to eat ended in disaster. They gobbled up a tiny ball of meat and were all violently sick. After that their foster-mother coddled them by adding meat-juice to their milk to get them used to the taste. At last the great day came when they were given a piece of horse-rib. This met with their full approval, and they licked the bones until they shone.

The cubs grew sturdier and the apartment became smaller, until they just had to move into a flat at the zoo. All three tigers are full of fun and have happy dispositions. Dacca is very dainty and takes great pride in her appearance; but, usually the ringleader in any pranks, she bosses her brothers, and they treat her with great respect.

THE BATTLE FOR THE RHINELAND

THE much-vaunted Siegfried Line has proved of little more value to the Germans than the Maginot Line was to the French. The Nazi armies, or rather part of their armies, have been driven across the River Rhine where it flows through level country.

It was the intention of Rundstedt to use this river, hereabouts never less than 400 yards wide, as a great natural ditch of defence against the Allies.

But, as General Eisenhower has said, this river has never yet proved a sure barrier, and when the enemy can no longer hold out on its eastern bank the German people will have suffered the greatest blow to their pride in this war, for the Rhine has long been to them a symbol of their power and security.

"The Rhine, the Rhine, the German Rhine, who'll guard thee when thy foes combine?" the German invaders roared the chorus of their popular song, *Wacht am Rhein*, as they poured into France in 1870, and they belov'd the answer: "Dear Fatherland have never a fear, stout hearts and true watch by the Rhine!" Ever since, this song has been a national refrain.

The 850-mile-long Rhine is one of the most important rivers in Europe. The most beautiful reaches of the river are in its course between Alsace and Germany, where the rocky cliffs are sometimes crowned with old castles, and the banks garlanded with vineyards. Here is the scene of the mythology of the old romantic, dare we say the more human, Germany of the legend of the Nibelungs and their submerged treasure.

A Hive of Industry

Along this stretch the river flows swift and deep between banks from 160 to 300 yards apart. At Coblenz the Rhine has slowed down to a man's walking pace, and widened. Where it receives its tributary, the Ruhr, near Duisberg, the width of the Rhine is 490 yards, and by the time it reaches Nijmegen it is 600 yards wide and 70 feet deep.

Most tourists from Britain only know the Rhine upstream from Cologne, and from the decks of their pleasure steamers they have seen the busy traffic from that city into the heart of Germany. But downstream commerce holds complete sway, for the coalfields of the Ruhr basin have converted Rhineland into

one of the busiest industrial areas in Europe.

It has been estimated that in May, 1939, a total of 1,827,000 people were here engaged in war-industries alone, metal smelting, iron and steel goods, machines, vehicles, ships and aircraft, electrical engineering and chemicals. But textiles and other less martial industries employed many others.

Distributing the Factories

The conquest of the Rhineland will therefore be a severe blow at the enemy—and will be doubly welcome if it should liberate long-suffering Holland. Yet even when we add her loss of industrial Silesia, the industrial resources of Germany will have by no means been overwhelmed. Germany, indeed, should be able to hold out for some time. The reason is that the Nazis have spread their war industries not only through Germany but through Austria and Bohemia.

In May, 1939, the total of those engaged in war industries was 5,316,000. Of this number over 900,000 were in Southern Germany and Austria, and nearly 1,300,000 in North-Western Germany. Since the outbreak of the war not only have the Nazis developed the industrial areas of Bohemia but they have also moved many important factories as far as possible from their frontiers.

Even with the capture of Berlin and the whole of the plain from the Baltic to the North Sea it would be possible for the Nazi armies to hold out for a time in the highlands which comprise the southern half of their country. And this, of course, is why the whole strategy of the Allied Command is to destroy the armies rather than merely to drive them before them.

To the civilised world it is appalling that the German people should permit their rulers to continue a lost war to an end which is a desolation. It seems indeed that "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad." And madness born of an insatiable lust for power, certainly prevails in Germany today.

West Africans in India

SET in a huge expanse of new quay wall in Bombay docks is a little plaque which says: "RWAFF 1944. It commemorates the magnificent work done here by 800 Gold Coast and Nigerian sappers of the famous Royal West African Frontier Force.

These men, like many other West Africans, had gone out to the Far East to help to fight the Japanese. When they reached India, before going on to the Burma fighting area, they heard of a priority job to hand. In the summer of 1944 the important docks at Bombay were devastated by explosion and fire, and it was essential that they should be repaired with all speed. The West Africans were asked to help.

The whole rebuilding job meant first the shifting of hundreds of thousands of tons of

ruins and rubble, and then building up again with 10,000 tons of cement and 40,000 tons of stone and sand. The West Africans were only a small part of the total labour force used, but they did wonders. They rebuilt three-quarters of a mile of warehouses, and the Gold Coast group, in one month, rebuilt nearly 200 feet of the great quay wall on which the RWAFF plaque appears.

The West Africans played a large part in safeguarding the docks for the future. They built two new underground fire-pump houses for the hydraulic pumping-plant, and a concrete tank to hold 40,000 cubic of water. A Nigerian company alone laid down three miles of fire main to carry high-pressure water supply. Altogether a fine piece of work was accomplished by these West Africans on their way to the Far East fighting.

The War at Japan's Door

THE grim shadow of Things To Come fell across Japan recently when American carrier-borne aircraft bombed the Ryukyu Islands.

The Ryukyu archipelago stretches in a string of little islands across the East China Sea from the south of the Japanese mainland to Japan's distant possession of Formosa Island, 700 miles away to the south. The Ryukyus are useful ports of call for ships taking supplies to Japan's scattered armies in South-East Asia.

If the Allies were to gain possession of these islands the consequences for Japan would be serious. From them Allied warships would dominate the East China Sea probably as far north as the route from Japan to Shanghai, and thus the enemy's sea communication with his armies spread out over South-East Asia would be cut. This would involve the Japanese in landing supplies in North China and carrying them by a long and difficult rail and road journey of 1000 to 2000 miles to their far-flung armies.

The American commanders have indeed struck Japan in a critical spot.

THE FUTURE OF THE MINES

THE National Union of Mineworkers have published their reply to Mr Robert Foot's plan for the future organisation of the coalmining industry. The CN has already dealt with Mr Foot's report, in which he made it clear that he did not advocate the nationalisation of the coal-mines.

The miners, however, want the coalmining industry to be nationalised, in, they say, the interests of the industry itself and of the miners and the nation. They want a radical reorganisation and the introduction of up-to-date methods. The Union say that at least sixty per cent of the present output of coal in this country is from pits over forty years old, that very few new collieries have been sunk, and that, because of the age of most of the pits, the distances of the workings from the pit-shafts have increased, with the result that more time is required to reach the working places, leaving less to be spent in actual production of coal.

The miners think that Mr Foot's plan for reorganisation on the basis of private ownership would only increase the existing difficulties.

The problem of the mines remains to be settled, and the sooner a satisfactory solution is found the better it will be for the prosperity of the nation.

Cyclists' Touring Club

IN our article, *The Cyclists' Champion*, last month, we stated that the Bayswater home of the CTC, with its museum, was closing down. This, of course, is not so, for the CTC is very much a virile organisation, having a membership last year higher than at any period since 1904.

We congratulate the Club on its new Secretary, Mr Nevill Whall, who has done so much for young people as Chairman of the Youth Hostels Association.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

THE number of people killed on the roads during January (335) was the lowest for any month for several years.

Turkey has placed orders in Britain for one million pounds' worth of railway equipment.

At her own request, Princess Elizabeth has joined the ATS as an honorary subaltern. She is training to be an officer-driver.

President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin are expected to visit Britain this year.

A big aeronautical research station is to be built at Threlkington, near Bedford.

Mr Thomas Dixon, a farmer of Durham, has what is believed to be the world's record of 340 championships for ploughing. His younger son John has already 114 championships.

SOME 310 acres in a beautiful part of Arnscliffe have been given to the nation in memory of the late Captain Philip Scott, 60th Rifles, by his family and friends.

Boys at Clifton College are now learning to speak Russian.

The Royal Family have planted oaks in Windsor Great Park as a memorial of the fine work for the Red Cross achieved by British agriculture.

Liberation News Reel

DURING the chaos caused by R.A.F. raids on Saxony, 1000 Russian slave workers escaped and, seizing arms from their guards, fought their way to meet the advancing Russian armies and created much havoc behind the German lines.

Two Russian generals watched the Canadian Army pushing through the Siegfried Line defences recently. They were Major-General Dragoun, head of the Soviet Military Mission to France, and Major-General Suslaparov.

About 3000 Allied prisoners-of-war were freed by our advancing armies from a camp near Krefeld.

Liberation stamps have been issued in Luxembourg. Each value expresses gratitude to a different Liberator in such phrases as "Thanks to Britannia," "Thanks to America," "Homage A La France," and so on, with a symbolic picture of the country concerned.

Full power has been restored to the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines by the USA Government.

Radio instructions have been sent to Norwegian patriots instructing them how to act in the event of an Allied invasion of Norway. They have been advised to scuttle ships and hide food stocks.

Youth News Reel

THE Scout Certificate of Gallantry has been awarded to Patrol Leader D. Thyer and Scouts Alan Dudley Toft and Terence Satchell Toft of the 1st Kingswear Group, Devonshire, for rescuing a boy who was trapped underneath an overturned raft in the sea.

Apart from the usual services as messengers, stretcher bearers, and so on, which Nijmegen Scouts undertook after the liberation of their town, they also helped to organise the first postal services, compiled statistics, set up a special information bureau for rehousing the bombed-out population, and even ran a bakery.

Mrs Churchill has been invited to visit Russia this spring. She has raised over six million pounds for the Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund.

Sweden, after the war, will begin exporting to Britain 30,000 prefabricated wooden houses a year.

The Germans besieged in Dunkirk are keeping cows in the U-boat pens.

The Medical Officer of Feltham sends greetings to local children on their first birthday as part of the publicity for the diphtheria immunisation campaign.

Twenty-one land girls in Worcestershire have killed 60,000 rats in six months.

President Roosevelt gave his spare wheel chair to King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, who greatly admired it when he met the President in Egypt recently.

General Smuts recently climbed 3400 feet to the top of Table Mountain near Capetown to attend a war memorial service.

Three members of a family were recently decorated by the King at the same time. Major Anthony Noble, of Emsworth, Hants, received the M.C., his wife the M.B.E., and his brother the M.C.

MINES laid in enemy waters by the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. have sunk at least 1000 enemy ships since the beginning of the war.

It has been revealed that the first Allied convoy of the war to pass through the Dardanelles reached Russia a few weeks ago.

German prisoners taken in Western Europe from D Day to the end of February totalled nearly a million.

The name of Britain's newest and biggest battleship, launched by Princess Elizabeth, is H.M.S. Vanguard. The first Vanguard fought against the Armada.

A RECORD convoy of 167 Allied merchant ships, which occupied 26 square miles of ocean and carried 1,151,829 tons of cargo, recently crossed the Atlantic safely.

Britain's minelayers, the size of light cruisers, are the fastest warships in the world.

In Burma British troops are fighting for the oil-producing district of Chauk and Yenang-yang, where there are 3800 oil wells.

Since December 1, 1944, American bombers operating from aircraft-carriers have destroyed at least 1610 Japanese planes and damaged 1078. During the same period they have sunk 187 Japanese ships and damaged 402.

A mobile hospital staffed by 22 Guides and five Scouters has left England for service in North-West Europe. This, the second Guide International Service team, hopes to work in Holland.

The value of his training as a Sea Scout in the 4th Allerton (Liverpool) Troop is shown by the rapid promotion of Tony Van der List, who joined the Merchant Navy at 15, about a year ago, and is already rated as able-bodied seaman.

It is hoped that the Guide International Service Fund, now over £71,000, will reach £100,000 by St George's Day, April 23.



A New Game

Chinese children look on curiously as an American Red Cross worker in China shows them how to play softball.

STRANGE ADVENTURE

A LIBERTY ship sent out an SOS during an Arctic storm one winter night to say that she feared she was breaking in two. By the time a rescue craft arrived the bow and stern of the cargo ship were ten miles apart!

The pieces were towed to a shipyard in British Columbia, put together again, and today the Liberty ship is carrying on as usual.

MUSICAL EXCHANGES

MUSIC hath charms. Also, it is a means of promoting friendship and good will between nations. This has been demonstrated by the visit of the R.A.F. band and orchestra to the United States, at the same time that the U.S. Army Air Force band has been touring Britain.

Our Air Force musicians have just spent two months in America, travelling thousands of miles and playing in eighteen States. Mostly their performances have been for the American Forces, but they have played their part also in American war bond campaigns. The audiences were most enthusiastic. The strains of sweet music know no national bounds. Let us hope that when peace returns there will be a frequent interchange of bands and orchestras.

LAST OF A NAME

AUSTRALIA has officially removed from the map the place name—Hoothalucodinnymungo, because of the difficulty in pronunciation and spelling. An aboriginal word (its meaning unknown) it was used to describe the great dividing range near Roma, Queensland.

The Australian map still carries, however, another peace-breaker, Cadibarrawirracanna, a lake in South Australia.

An Old Soldier Goes Home

PRIVATE TOM MOCKSFORD, who at 66 is a veteran of three wars, and the oldest ranker in the New Zealand forces, has returned home from a German prison camp.

Mocksford enlisted 46 years ago for the Boer War. In a skirmish his horse was shot and his greatcoat torn by five bullets, but he was unscathed.

In 1913 he re-enlisted with the 18th Infantry Battalion. He went through the 1914-18 war without injury, although his boot was once shot from his foot.

WEALTH FROM SEAWEED

SEAWEED is being used to help the war effort on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the U.S.A., where it is harvested in huge quantities. From seaweed a gelatinous substance, Agar-agar, is obtained, and this is essential in the preparation of certain medicines and in medical research. Agar is also used in the manufacture of chocolate bars and ice cream.

Apart from its yield of Agar, seaweed is used for making camouflage for the U.S. armed forces, for the manufacture of tungsten wire, and of photographic plate emulsions. It is also used as a binder for cartridge primers. The giant kelp found off the California coast is rich in potash for fertilising soil.

The Chinese for centuries have eaten certain kinds of seaweed, making stews and soup from it. The Hawaiians use it in salads.

BEGGAR ON WHEELS

WE have all heard of beggars on horseback, but a C.N. reader has discovered another kind, equally superfluous. To his house the other day came a well-fed, sturdy looking man, asking for food and a cup of cocoa. Such a request in these days of rationing seemed surprising, but a greater surprise was to follow.

Following the man out of the garden gate, he saw that his caller had concealed a handsome bicycle there. The beggar was conducting his business on wheels!

The householder, with all due deference, suggested that a five-minute ride would take him to a Labour Exchange where the services of resourceful men such as he were earnestly sought.

In 1940, giving a false age, he enlisted again with his three sons, fought through Greece and Crete, and was in action in the North African desert when he was captured in 1941. Taken to Italy he worked on the Lombard swamps and cane-growing, but escaped in the confusion that followed the Italian surrender. Evading capture, he escaped into Yugoslavia, but was later found by the Germans. He was transferred to a prison camp in Austria, where he became ill, and was eventually repatriated.

THE SHARK CHASER

THE Pacific is a shark-infested ocean, and the danger to our airmen and sailors fighting there of being attacked by these voracious tigers of the sea, if through shipwreck or the destruction of their planes they fell into the water, was great until the development by the U.S. Service Departments of a device called a "Shark Chaser."

This is a chemical compound in liquid form which sharks dislike intensely and which drives them away when it is thrown into the sea. Mr Churchill said in Parliament recently that tests with this invention are still being carried out by our Allies and we are being kept informed of the results. Our authorities are also taking steps to obtain supplies of the life-saving substance.

It will prove of great benefit to the fighting men of the United Nations in the coming Battle of the Pacific.

AN EXPEDITION OF MERCY

MEMBERS of the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts, and the Society of Friends are among the 180 men and women who, with 50 vehicles, have gone as a relief convoy to take comforts, clothing, and medical aid to civilians in North-West Europe.

There are six relief teams in the convoy, each team consisting of 12 men and women with two ambulances, two trucks, and a three-ton lorry. This expeditionary force to relieve suffering is working under the authority of the Red Cross and St John War Organisation.

THE TRAVELLING BOTTLE

ON October 17, 1938, Fred Loveys, a young Canadian of seventeen, wrote a message to his relatives in his father's native county of Devon, put the message in a bottle, sealed it. He then placed the bottle in the Grand River at Brantford, Ontario, from whence the tides carried it to the river's mouth and out to the open sea.

A few days ago this travelling bottle was picked up on Babacombe Beach, near Torquay, and was duly delivered to the relatives of the sender, now serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force in England. Its Transatlantic journey had taken over six years.

JUDY'S BUSY DAY

THE book department workers at the Marshall Field shop in Chicago are still talking about their 3000-lb visitor, Judy. And Judy, being an elephant, will probably never forget the day she spent autographing the book, The Elegant Elephant, by Russell McCracken. For two hours Judy autographed books with a rubber stamp held in her trunk.

Delighted with the attention and admiration she received, Judy refused to go back by the goods lift which had brought her up to the third floor when her job was done. Cajoling and persuasion were without avail, and so Judy had a supper of hay in the Oriental rug department next to the book department.

In appreciation of this she went through her tricks, which included dancing and standing on her head; but tired and sleepy, Judy at last agreed to leave by means of a ramp which workmen had spent five hours in building over the fire escape.

Beware of the Swan

THE bird men at the Zoo have recently introduced a whooper swan to the public, and express the hope that it will become as tame and as great a favourite as was an earlier example. That one would stretch up its neck to be stroked and fondled, with every evidence of enjoyment, and doubtless the new one will follow suit in time.

Now there is one thing about swans that not all young people know. It is a proud experience to become recognised as a friend of a swan, and to have the beautiful bird take food from one's hand. But the experience

can be painful. The lower half of a swan's beak has teeth of a kind, the horn ring of the mandible being like a rough file or small-toothed saw. The bird is rather inclined to snatch its food, and so to rasp the fingers feeding it.

So the advice of one who has had his fingers made sore through feeding swans is that food should not be held to the bird's mouth but dropped in front. Apart from this, it should be remembered that swans should always be approached with some caution, for they are often very savage.

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

THE management of The Children's Theatre is to be taken over by the organisation at Glyndebourne, that home of opera in the heart of rural Sussex, which was so popular with music-lovers before the war. The work of The Children's Theatre which has been carried on at Toynbee Hall, London, will continue; but under the Glyndebourne management, The Children's Theatre will be developed on a national scale.

The wedding of these two organisations give promise, for Glyndebourne is well-known for its high artistic standard.

FUNNY LITTLE MAN

The Dwarf who was much too clever, by Geoffrey Lang (Herbert Jenkins, 7s 6d).

MOST of us know people who are too clever by half, and they are not usually amusing; but this dwarf, Grout, who thinks he knows everything, is really funny, even if he is only contented when bad-tempered.

The story tells how Grout, who is also so vain that he prides himself on being a giant dwarf, meets the good twins, Robin and Joan, out in the woods with Whizzie, their lovely white cat.

Then the book unfolds their adventures when the twins refuse to take the dwarf seriously, or his great show of knowledge or his "poems."

The author has found a worthy ally in artist Will Nickless, whose illustrations are a sheer delight.

A NEW USE FOR BLACK CURTAINS

IT has always been a tradition for French girls to wear black sateen aprons to school (tabliers as they call them), but during the occupation there was no material for them.

Now comes news from America that the War Relief for France is urging everyone to give their discarded blackout curtains, which can be made into aprons.

SPINNING WHEELS

THE famous old Irish homespun industry, which formerly flourished in the homes of so many peasants, is flourishing once again.

This revival is due to the wartime scarcity of wool. Spinning-wheels, which have lain unused for years in the rural home-steads of Donegal and Mayo are coming into active use once more. The wheelwrights are being employed in repairing of spinning-wheels, some 250 years old, and in fashioning new ones.

The art of spinning had almost died out even in the most famous county for this craft, County Donegal, but elderly women are acting as tutors for the younger workers.

COCKY CALLING

A LOUGHBOROUGH family acquired a young cockerel with the intention of rearing him for the table. But Cocky, as he is called, became so tame that they have made him the family pet.

Cocky now goes for walks with the children, and stands on the front doorstep and crows when he wants to enter the house.



Home Again

After spending nearly four years abroad entertaining the troops, two girl pipers of Dagenham are welcomed back to their home town by the Mayor and Private Galpin, whom they met in Tripoli, and other members of the band.

March 17, 1945

The Children



The Chief Scout

Lord Rowallan, father of five sons, has a far bigger family now. The Boy Scouts have welcomed him as their Leader.

THE SILENT AMBASSADORS

COMPETITIVE co-operation. This happy phrase might well be the keynote for all industrial efforts in the years which lie ahead. It was used, however, with particular reference to British and American books by Mr John Winant, the American Ambassador to Great Britain, when he opened in the Churchill Club at Westminster an exhibition of British publishers' volumes known as The Fifty Books, 1945. These volumes had been chosen from 350 books published in 1944 by more than 60 firms. A set of the 50 books has been sent to New York, for a similar display there.

Mr Winant said that he looked for a new type of "competitive co-operation" between the British Export Service for making British books available throughout the world and the United States International Book Association, which does the same thing for American books.

The American Ambassador went on to say that their mutual

drive to secure new readers across the seas was of benefit not only to English and American publishers, but also to the new readers, seeing that a considerable number of the world's greatest books had been written in the English language. Neither the newspaper, nor the radio, nor any other new marvel that science might provide tomorrow, would take the place of the book as the creator of mind and characters, he added.

Our Poet Laureate, Mr John Masefield, who is the President of the National Book League, also spoke. He, too, wanted to see friendly rivalries in books encouraged, as a means of promoting kindness between nations; and he pleaded also for the exchange of exhibitions of American and British classics.

Books, by promoting understanding, can do much to bind nations together, and this is particularly true of America and Great Britain, whose people speak the same language.

The Free City of Danzig

THE advance to the Baltic of Marshal Rokossovsky's Russian Army, and the Yalta plans for the new Poland, give special interest to Danzig.

The liberation of Danzig from its Nazi oppressors has more meaning than the freeing of all the other Baltic ports. For Danzig was an international city.

Once Polish, once German, magnificently medieval and held in esteem by all who love beauty and serenity, Danzig has an old, old history, at times strangely entwined with our own. As early as the twelfth century it was the headquarters of the British Baltic trade; English relationships with the Hanseatic League—the league for commercial purposes of the towns of North Germany in the Middle Ages—were of the greatest importance,

and when the foundations of the British Empire were being laid in the reign of Elizabeth, Danzig sent to England arms and materials for building ships.

Danzig had been a free city for some three hundred years when in 1793 it became part of the Kingdom of Prussia.

In 1920 Danzig was separated from Germany by the League of Nations under the Treaty of Versailles, and declared once again a free city and seaport. Its position on the river Vistula makes it important for shipping coming in from the Baltic; it exports timber in large quantities, as well as corn and sugar. It is well connected with Poland and Germany by rail and air; there is also a broadcasting station, and shipyards capable of building large ocean liners.

MUSIC FOR THE LONELY SOLDIER

THERE are now twelve "mobile juke boxes" being used by ENSA overseas. These are re-diffusion vans, each equipped with two gramophone turntables and five hundred records of all descriptions. They have also a radio pick-up set and loud-speakers which can carry sound three-quarters of a mile.

The idea originated when a young pilot, Ian MacPhail,

began longing to hear some good music. ENSA accepted the idea which now gives entertainment to thousands of soldiers every week.

Two of the drivers have started competitions, with cigarettes as prizes. In one of these the men guess the names of tunes or singers, or shows from which the tunes come. In another volunteers compete in singing.

Mosquito War in Fiji

THE mosquito is Public Enemy Number One in the colony of Fiji. The director of medical services, who recently opened a campaign for its extermination, pointed out that the mosquitoes in Fiji have for long been convicted of carrying, by their bite, at least three serious diseases. Little could be done, however, until the people themselves would co-operate with the medical services.

The chance came when the Fijians flocked eagerly to volunteer to fight against the Japanese in the Solomon Islands. The volunteers who then had to be rejected at the medical examination, because they had been so much weakened by mosquito-borne diseases, were bitterly disappointed and determined to take their revenge on the mosquito. They and their people are now eager to join with the medical services in the new anti-mosquito war.

The campaign in Fiji was opened in the village of Cautata. It was welcomed by the Fijian chiefs and villagers with ancient ceremonial rites, and over 100 Fijians came forward to have their blood tested for the presence of disease parasites. This is a preliminary step in the co-operative effort, which in three years should stamp out mosquito-borne diseases in the island.

The new campaign is also taking into account the counter-attack being launched by the mosquito family. There is a danger that the malaria-carrying anopheles mosquito, hitherto unknown in Fiji, may be introduced by air or sea traffic from places where it is widespread. The Fijian soldiers on home leave might bring it from the malaria-infested Solomon Islands. So, besides keeping up the usual quarantine barrier, the Fijian Government is working to destroy mosquito breeding-places, first at the airport and seaport arrival points, and then throughout the whole colony. In this Fiji and other British territories in the South Pacific are being helped by a grant of £65,000 specially made by Britain for malaria and mosquito control.

BOUNCING PUTTY

SILICONE putty has made headlines lately by being very un-putty like. It looks and feels like putty, and can be pulled and kneaded in the same way, yet when rolled into a ball and dropped on a hard surface it bounces like rubber.

Scientifically, "bouncing putty" exhibits paradoxical properties, for it is both elastic like rubber and plastic like putty. Which of these properties it exhibits depends upon the rate at which stress is applied. When rolled into a ball or pulled like toffee the deforming forces are applied slowly. Then it is plastic, the material flowing from one part of the mass to another. But when the ball is dropped, and it hits the floor, the stress comes suddenly, and then it behaves as an elastic material.

Though this combination of properties is shown to a slight degree by other materials, Silicone putty is the first in which it is so marked.

EDITOR'S TABLE

Links Across the Sea

LET each British town link up with a chosen town in the United States. Let the inhabitants of these linked towns take a special interest in each other's affairs, exchange visits and get to know each other thoroughly. This grand suggestion has been put forward by Sir George Schuster, M P for Walsall, as a means of securing complete understanding and a blood-brotherhood between Britons and Americans.

Sir George has offered to make a contribution towards any fund promoted to enable his proposal to be carried out.

We commend Sir George Schuster's suggestion. As Mr Winant, the American Ambassador, has said in a message to Sir George, the allies of today must remain friends tomorrow or all our hopes will perish.

America is just ourselves, wrote Matthew Arnold. This plan, if it were translated into action, as we hope it will be, would go far to make that a living reality.

Rewards For Heroes

FROM October 1, 1944, all VCs below commissioned rank will receive the same benefits whatever their branch of the services. They will receive £10 a year for life, plus an addition of 6d a day to their pensions. Every VC or his estate will receive a minimum of £50.

Holders of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Naval and Flying), the Distinguished Service Medal, the Military Medal, or the Distinguished Flying Medal will receive 6d a day addition to their pensions.

The deeds of these heroes cannot, of course, be assessed in money.

CARRY ON

The Wisdom of a Greek

PERFECT wisdom hath four parts: wisdom, the principle of doing things aright; justice, the principle of doing things equally in public and private; fortitude, the principle of not flying danger, but meeting it; and temperance, the principle of subduing desires, and living moderately. Plato

A SECRET

TRUE happiness is never found By those who happiness pursue: Unselfish folk with it are crowned Who deeds of love and mercy do. When useful toil has taken toll In aching limbs and brainpower spent, Then happiness invades the soul With blissful peace and sweet content.

David Effaye

POLAND'S C

BOTH Houses of Parliament have approved the policy of Mr Churchill and Mr Eden at the Crimea Conference.

The only matter of controversy was the decision on the eastern boundary of Poland—the Curzon Line. Much confused thought has been current about the justice of this frontier which was decided when Poland was made a nation in 1919 but was overrun later by the Poles in a war against Russia.

Mr Eden showed clearly that the absorption of an area in which the vast majority of the inhabitants were not Poles was not only without the approval

Holidays in

IN normal times schoolteachers would strongly object to their pupils going away for holidays with their parents in term-time, but in these days the war has to come first and it has a bad effect on our war effort if large numbers of grown-ups are away from their work during August and September. So, in accordance with the Government's staggered holiday scheme, many parents will have to take their holiday in term-time. It would be hard luck indeed.

Under the I

FIGURES can often give an entirely wrong impression. Fat boys are not always greedy.

SERVICE life has made many men wear moustaches. But many have had close shaves.

AUSTRALIAN toymakers are selling toys made of scrap metal. Fighting stock.

THE spoken word is very different from the written one. Especially if you are good at spelling.

PETE WAN KN



The Herald

QUITE silently, but no less clear, The shining golden trumpets sound: Proclaiming spring, sweet spring, is here As daffodils rise from the ground. The birds the herald-call obey And echo with their melody, While trees their blossoms too display To share in Nature's harmony. And lambs skip to the tabor-sound As young lambs will the lambkin way, While fawns just love to prance around To herald in the dawn of day. Through many a forest-glen or dale Young men and maidens ramble, on And with their laughter seem to hail The brightness of the smiling morn.

OPPORTUNITY

of the British Government, but also held the seeds of future unrest. With the new territory which would be awarded to Poland in Upper Silesia and on the Baltic, and the consequent disappearance of the Polish Corridor and its inevitable disputes, the new Poland would be a truly national State.

All their admirers—and all the Poles have fully earned the admiration of mankind—hope that the Poles will seize the great opportunity now set before them and join together in creating a free, democratic, and self-sufficient State in harmony with her neighbours.

Term-Time

if the children of these people were unable to go away for a holiday, and the Minister of Education, Mr R. A. Butler, has directed that boys and girls in elementary and secondary schools may be absent for a fortnight if their parents are going on holiday in term-time.

Some of these will consider themselves lucky, but there are many boys and girls who will not rejoice at the prospect of missing two weeks of school activities.

Editor's Table

PUCK S TO ANIMAL language embraces a wide range of sound. But mice often have narrow squeaks.

GOVERNMENT housing plans ought to be carried out quickly. But they have only just been brought in.

SOME people never read a book without skipping. How do they hold the rope?

HUMOUR from hecklers may have a damping effect on an orator. Not if it is dry.

of Spring

And all the world once more seems gay
As spring brings forth new-born desires;
Why cannot all, come what, come may,
Just live the life which God inspires.
And then will men of every clime
Join in one loud triumphant song,
So herald now and for all time
Peace and good will to conquer wrong.

William Taylor Money

On Some Better Star

AND often, Margaret,
I gaze at night into the boundless sky,
And think that I shall there be born again,
The exalted native of some better star;
And like the rude American I hope
To find in heaven the things I loved on earth.

Southey

Hands Off the Nests

It is more than ever necessary to avoid bird-nesting, and the Ministry of Agriculture have asked teachers to discourage their pupils from indulging in this pursuit. By robbing nests of the eggs of such birds as tits, warblers, whitethroats, and flycatchers, children are depriving farmers of good friends for, when those eggs are hatched and the young birds begin to seek for their own food, they render a valuable service to agriculture by devouring harmful insects and garden pests.

Therefore, the order of the day is: *leave birds' nests alone and help the farmers.*

The Fighting Man and His Pets

If proof were needed that the love of animals is inborn in our race it could be provided by the record of our Fourteenth Army in Burma.

A special correspondent of The Times has been writing about our men and their pets. One officer has a bear cub, another a tame sheep which went with its master all the way down the Tiddim road. A captain has adopted a Siamese cat, and a sergeant a ten-foot python. A general has a flock of ducks, which move whenever his headquarters move! Monkeys, parrots, parakeets, mules, and dogs of all sorts and descriptions, move with their masters. It is said that no Burmese dog at a loose end will starve as long as there are British troops in Burma.

The men of our gallant Fourteenth Army carry a record which will be second to none when the history of this war comes to be written. We have little doubt that their menagerie of pets will have helped them in their superhuman tasks.

JUST AN IDEA

Nature gave us one tongue and two ears in order to teach us to listen more than to speak.

The Farmer's Patience

THE farmer is a slow person, timed to Nature. He takes the pace of seasons, plants, and chemistry.

Nature never hurries; atom by atom, little by little, she achieves her work. The lesson one learns in fishing, yachting, hunting, or planting, is the manners of Nature; patience with the delays of wind and Sun, delays of the seasons, bad weather, excess or lack of water; patience with the slowness of our feet, with the parsimony of our strength, with the largeness of sea and land we must traverse.

The farmer times himself to Nature, and acquires that live-long patience which belongs to her.

Emerson

THE HARMFUL LIE

It is not the lie that passeth through the mind, but the lie that sinketh in, and settleth in it, that doth the hurt.

Francis Bacon

Macaulay Wrong Again?

LORD MACAULAY, brilliant writer and eminently readable, is notoriously unreliable; all too often he was swayed by political prejudice, and his very brilliance was apt to turn him from the sober truth. Yet another possible instance of his fallibility has lately been under review, though in this it is true that he might well have pleaded a poet's licence.

In his stirring ballad of the Armada beacons Macaulay wrote *Skiddaw saw the fire that burned on Gaunt's embattled pile. And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of Carlisle.*

Mr H. T. White of the Hampshire Field Club thinks that since the Spaniards made no attempt to land, only the beacons on the South Coast were fired. One of the domestic state papers in the Public Record Office gives the number of men, 144,000, appointed for the defence of the coast from Cornwall to Lincolnshire. Mr White has also found a letter to Sir Francis Walsingham, private secretary to Queen Elizabeth, giving the total number of men inspected at Portsmouth by the Earl of Sussex only 2500 out of 16,000 allotted to the port from Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Sussex, and Surrey.

It would appear from all this that, the inland and northern-most counties were not called upon, and that mighty Macaulay's picturesque poem, with this reference to this Cumberland mountain, falls into place as famous fiction.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DELIGHT

WHAT can be better for an editor, when he has finished his editing, than to turn from the world of hard fact to the realm of gentle fancy. One editor of our acquaintance, Mr Lewis Richmond of The Nottingham Journal, thinks nothing can be better, and the outcome of his theory lies before us in the shape of an inviting book—Before 1066 and All That (Nottingham Printers, Ltd, 3s 6d).

Mr Richmond believes that many of the familiar fairy stories, and nursery rhymes, so often crude, would be better with an English setting. He also thinks that many of the Brothers Grimm stories are too grim. And he has accordingly spent many an hour when most of us are in bed in producing a fairy book with a homelier twist, ably assisted by artist Albert Underwood, cartoonist of the Nottingham Evening News.

The result, primarily, we divine, the whim of an indulgent grandfather, is a happy one. Here we may read, not of Big Claus and Little Claus, but of Tom the Trog-lo-dyte, of Barbara the Barbarian, of Cedric the Saxon, and many another whose stories are aligned with our early history. And, in addition to all this—Nottinghamshire Delight it might well be called—the book has pictures to colour, and a jacket which is a game and may well start a new fashion in book jackets. Truly a book that is full of fun from beginning to end.

ENGLAND'S GREAT GENERAL-AT-SEA

THE name of Robert Blake is honoured once again in Westminster Abbey, to be followed before long, we hope, by that of his great chief, Oliver Cromwell.

At the end of last month a stone tablet was unveiled in the south choir aisle to the memory of Robert Blake, Admiral and General of the Fleet, by Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Blake, who is the eldest naval representative of his family. The memorial, which was designed by Gilbert Ledward, R.A., bears this tribute:

Trusting in God and in the valour of his countrymen, wrought great victories for England at sea and worthily maintained the honour of the nation . . . One who desired no greater worldly happiness than to be accounted honest and faithful in his employment.

Thus, in days when the Navy stands at the height of achievement, Robert Blake, who restored its waning glory three centuries ago, is remembered in the shrine from which his body was so shamefully cast out a few years after it had been buried in Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

Born in 1598 in the house which is now Bridgewater Museum, Robert Blake was educated at the local grammar school, and later studied for ten years at Wadham College, Oxford. On the death of his father, a merchant, Robert with one of his twelve brothers carried on the family business, and won such respect that he was chosen M.P. for Bridgewater in 1640.

He was called to sterner matters than merchandise and private gain, for the Short Parliament of 1640 gave national grievances precedence over the supplies demanded by the King.

When the Civil War broke out two years later Robert Blake clapped a sword to his side and set out to fight for the people's cause.

Middle-aged, with no powers of oratory, Blake was gifted with tremendous courage, adamant fortitude, and real ability as leader and organiser. His resolution in the defence of Priors Hill at Bristol, Lyme Regis, and, finally, Taunton, which he held against sword without and famine within, saved the West Country for Parliament.

A few days after the execution of Charles, Cromwell summoned this efficient merchant from his Somerset home to hunt

down Prince Rupert, who was using part of the English fleet to destroy the nation's commerce. Blake, appointed General-at-Sea, had practically to create a navy and purge the Admiralty of the corruption of the Stuarts. The Royalist pirates sought refuge with the King of Portugal, who refused to surrender them until Blake compelled him to drive them out to sea by seizing Portuguese treasure ships. Blake then quickly chased the pirates off the sea.

But there were sterner tasks ahead. Holland had become a strong naval power, so strong, in fact, that she had broken a treaty with the Stuarts. But Cromwell was determined to restore our declining commercial interests and make England count in the affairs of Europe. War broke out when the Dutch fleet under Admiral Martin Tromp refused to salute the English fleet in the Downs, and in many a stiff fight over a period of two years Blake was only once worsted. His toll of the enemy was 1700 ships.

Blake's next task was to show the flag in the Mediterranean, which he cleared of pirates. When there he received orders to engage Spain, which had attacked our settlements in the West Indies. In this war he pursued a treasure fleet right into the strongly fortified harbour of Santa Cruz in Tenerife, where he sank or burned every enemy vessel without losing one ship.

It was his crowning triumph. But he was worn out, and died as his ship entered Plymouth Sound on August 7, 1657. His body was laid in state at Greenwich and then taken in procession to rest near that of Queen Elizabeth in the Abbey.

How to Live 100 Years

CAPTAIN JOHN HOWELL of the U.S.A., who is 104 years old and fought on the side of the South in the American Civil War, gives this advice for living to be 100 years old: "Eat three square meals a day, keep your chin up and your temper under control, and make the 23rd Psalm part of your daily life."

The 23rd Psalm, of course, is the one that begins: The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.



THIS ENGLAND Hayes Barton, the birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh at East Budleigh in Devon

Tea With Mr Shaw

THE story of how two girls at St Christopher Co-educational School, Letchworth, visited the veteran author and dramatist, George Bernard Shaw, at his home at Ayot St Lawrence, has been told in the school magazine.

The girls were Ingrid, aged 15, and Christine, aged 13, who is of African descent and was at the Junior School attached to the famous Prince of Wales College at Achimota on the Gold Coast before she came to England in 1938. Her father is an eminent barrister on the Gold Coast.

In the magazine the girls report that having read a whimsical letter from Bernard Shaw in *The Times* about the right of children to be "noisy, playful, and grubby-handed, except at meal times," they decided to cycle over to his house and thank him for writing it. They realised, as many others have done, that Mr Shaw, despite his years and lack of parental authority, has a profound understanding of children and their ways.

G.B.S. could not break his rule about seeing visitors without appointment, but he sent them an invitation to come another day. On this occasion they were received by his secretary and sat down to tea. "Just after we started Mr Shaw came in. . . . He asked us how we'd got here, and how far it was. We said it was nine miles, and he said, 'So now you've come all that way to see me—now you've seen the old boy, you know what he looks like, just like an ordinary being.'"

"He asked Christine what country she came from, and said he had been in Africa himself.

He also wanted to know how many black and how many white people there were at the school she went to, there—the numbers were fairly even. . . . He asked Ingrid what she wanted to do in life, and when she said 'Look after dogs,' he told us about his little dog, who barks at everybody, including himself.

"He then asked us about school and whether we were happy there; when we said we were, he asked us if we did any work, and seemed very surprised that we managed to be happy and yet do quite a lot of work. He also wanted to know what system of work we had, and we told him that there was a certain amount of work to be done each fortnight. At this he asked what happened if we hadn't done it, and we said we got blown up."

The girls left a pot of honey for G.B.S. on leaving, "at which his secretary remarked that he nearly always seemed to be given food. Then we said good-bye, got on our bicycles and rode off, while Mr Shaw watched us from the middle of the road."

Well, it is a charming story, and it reveals the true gentleness and greatness of Mr Shaw. Many a lesser man would have declared himself too busy or occupied to see his young admirers. But it is perhaps just as well to remind other young admirers that even if G.B.S. is "88 years young," he should not be worried by visitors.

FROM YORKSHIRE TO PARIS

Do schoolchildren like professors? Certainly a group of French schoolchildren on the outskirts of Paris listened eagerly enough when Professor Jean Inebnit, of Leeds University, went to talk to them recently. Probably they appreciated at least as much as the talk the little bags, filled with soap, flannel, and toothbrush, which the professor had brought them as gifts from Yorkshire children.

There were plenty of questions they wanted to ask. What did English children do during raids? Did they have meals at school? Did they wear wooden-soled shoes? And, no doubt wistfully, did they get any chocolate?

Professor Inebnit has gone to France partly so that he can advise the Yorkshire society called Youth Helps Youth how it can best help young people in France. As he is the first representative of a British University to visit Paris since 1940, he is being asked many questions by students and others interested in education. Among the places he expects to visit is Lille, which already has strong ties with Yorkshire because of pre-war exchanges of students.

Young Palestine Wants English Books

IN the city of Tel-Aviv, in Palestine, the first all-Jewish city in the modern world, a new publishing company has been formed to collect English books for children and bring them out in special Hebrew editions. Books with pictures are especially sought after by the Modern Child Book Publishing Service and its founder, Dr Jakob Fischler.

It is readily accepted that children's books in Britain have a quality of thought and expression of the highest value to the world. Ideals of service, friendship, loyalty, and selfless patriotism which includes a genuine international outlook, all these themes inspire the work of British writers for boys and girls. Palestine, where there is little literature for Jewish children, and still less for the young Arab, is hungering for the best.

GUEST OF HONOUR

THE guest of honour at a children's party given recently at Broughton, Kent, was an old man who was born in the village and has spent his whole life among the farm workers of the district.

Frederick Bones was left an orphan when he was four and was brought up among the large family of his grandfather. At the age of nine he began work on a farm for three shillings and sixpence a week and a Sunday dinner. Never forgetting the hardships of his own boyhood, he has worked ever since for the improvement of rural workers. He has been a Methodist preacher for over 60 years, and joined the first Farm Workers' Trade Union in 1882.

Now, at 81, he is County President of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, and still an occasional preacher, although he can no longer walk the long distances he covered years ago. He tells how he often walked 18 miles on a Sunday after working in the fields all the week!

Look For Mercury in the Evening Sky

THE little world of Mercury is now coming into a good position for observation in the south-west sky in the evening, if the sky is clear of clouds, writes the C.N. Astronomer.

The planet Venus will be of considerable help in locating this most elusive of planets; for Mercury is usually most difficult to find because he never appears far from the Sun and therefore is always more or less dimmed by the prevalent twilight. Otherwise Mercury shines as a bright first-magnitude star, and of a somewhat golden hue.

However, during the next two weeks it should be possible to obtain some glimpses of Mercury soon after sunset. At about eight o'clock this week, and from eight until nine o'clock the

Mercury will be found not far from that line, but of course much nearer to the horizon than Venus. Both these worlds are rapidly speeding towards our world at present, Venus being much the nearer, about 36,000,000 miles away, whereas Mercury is about 105,000,000 miles distant. Mercury is approaching so rapidly, however, that by the end of next week, that is in only a fortnight, he will have reduced this to about 88,000,000 miles.

Together with Venus, Mercury continues to come closer, the two worlds, as it were, racing to see which will come between the Earth and the Sun first, that is, to reach what astronomers call *inferior conjunction*. Mercury will reach it first, though he has the greater distance to cover, passing between the Earth and the Sun on April 13, when Mercury will be some 48,000,000 miles away.

Venus will not reach *inferior conjunction* and her nearest point to us until April 15, when she will be 26,000,000 miles distant. But neither planet will be visible when at its nearest to us, for their unilluminated spheres will be presented toward us. This dark hemisphere of Mercury is believed to be for ever dark, except for light reflected from the stars, and, at the present time, by the illumination of Venus and the Earth. This must now be considerable, sufficient to produce shadows on Mercury and a degree of illumination resembling that of our Moon when approaching first-quarter phase; so, were a total eclipse of the Sun to occur at a time like this, it is possible that the most powerful telescopes would reveal Mercury as a tiny dim disc lit by Venus and the Earth.

At present Mercury appears to us, telescopically, like a tiny Moon at first-quarter phase, but Venus as a much larger crescent, as pictured. G. F. M.



Present size and appearance of Venus, left, and Mercury when seen through a telescope

following week and until the end of the month, will be the best time to look, the later the better if the sky is clear down to the horizon. As Mercury sets latest between March 26 and 31, and will then appear at his nearest to Venus, this will offer the best opportunity for seeing him.

Venus, though beginning to set earlier now, will be readily seen as a brilliant silvery object at a much higher altitude than Mercury and some way to the left of where Mercury will be found; but as he is at present travelling rapidly toward the left, his position relative to Venus will gradually change, Mercury drawing nearer.

A good method for finding Mercury will be to note just where the Sun sets; then, later on, draw an imaginary line from that point to Venus; and

GLUBB'S DESERT PATROL

ONE of the war's romantic stories is that of Glubb's Desert Patrol in Transjordan, named after Brigadier John B. Glubb.

At forty-seven, Brigadier Glubb is one of the youngest brigade commanders in the Army, and his achievement is one of hard work and patience among the Arabs of Palestine and Transjordan which have moulded the Arab Legion into a unique force.

The Legion was created by Colonel Peake in the last war, and is really a military police force charged with the great responsibility of keeping the peace on the desert borders. In normal times it works a complicated series of telephone posts in Transjordan, booking travellers from one post to the other so that a careful check is kept on the whereabouts and safety of all travellers.

To this Legion J. B. Glubb came in 1931. He had already learned about how to live with Arabs in Iraq, and his job was to organise the Desert Patrol over 40,000 square miles of desert.

He recruited his men only from genuine Bedouin Arabs, and dressed them, not in sombre police uniform, but in Arab dress with brilliant scarlet cloaks with white sleeves, and with their hair in long plaited pigtails. They have earned the nickname of "Glubb's Girls."

During the tragic rebellion it was Glubb's Patrol which guided our relieving forces across the desert, and hindered the supply columns between Syria and Baghdad. Up to 1939 they had only camels for transport, but now they have mechanised units and armoured trucks.

There is a great camaraderie and friendliness among the men of Glubb's Patrol. Except for a few British officers they are all Arabs, and have a great affection for their brigadier. Their pet name for him is "father of the little chin," on account of a wound which affected him in the last war. Their mascot is his little son, who dresses in Arab style and loves to watch his father's Desert Patrol ride past on trucks or on camels.

BEDTIME CORNER

Tom Pulls the Bell

WHEN the farmer caught sight of Tom peeping in at the stable door he called out to him: "Here, young Tom! Will you go across to the big house by the side of the pond and ask if they would like a couple of ducks. I've got some plump little chaps just ready for cooking."

Tom nodded and went off. He knew the house, and he knew the big green door with the long bell chain that hung down by the side of it.

Tom wouldn't have been surprised to find the chain gone. The old gentleman had threatened to have it taken away many times, for the boys couldn't resist giving it a pull as they passed to and fro.

Just as Tom turned the corner and came within sight of the house he passed a group of laughing schoolboys who seemed to be having a good joke.

He went up to the green door, caught hold of the chain and pulled it.

To his astonishment it fell down in his hand!

While he was staring at it the door opened and an old gentleman darted out.

"Now I've got you!" he exclaimed. "You young villain! What have you got to say for yourself?"

"If you please," stammered Tom, "would you like a couple of ducks?"

"What?" cried the old gentleman, letting go his arm and stepping back to have a better



look at him. "Aren't you one of the young rascals that pulled my bell and broke it?"

"I did pull it," said Tom, "but I didn't break it. I've come with a message from Farmer Brown."

The old gentleman laughed. "I believe you," he said. "I was going to give you a good talking-to; but if you come inside you shall have a glass of orangeade and a cake instead."

POWER FROM THE SEVERN TIDES

THE project of building a giant barrage or dam across the estuary of the Severn to provide electric light and power over a wide area is nearer realisation. It has been officially studied before, but now three prominent engineers, in a report to the Government, have submitted a detailed plan.

In many countries electricity on a large scale is produced by making swiftly-running water, usually from a waterfall or a controlled reservoir in the mountains, turn dynamos to produce electricity which can be transmitted by cables to where it is needed. In Britain we have no large waterfalls, but the idea of harnessing the huge power of the tides round our shores has long been in our minds. The Severn estuary was thought a suitable place for this because there the tides rise higher than elsewhere round our coasts. The spring tides rise 42 feet, and the lowest rise of 21 feet is much higher than elsewhere.

The difficulty which has in the past deterred our engineers from so using the tides has been the problem of building a two-way plant, one which would operate on the incoming and the outgoing tide, so as to produce a continuous supply of electricity. But Mr A. G. Vaughan-Lee, Sir William Halcrow, and Mr S. B. Donkin, the three experts who have just made their report, suggest that the Severn barrage should use only one tide, the outgoing one, and that the electricity so produced should be worked in with the distribution of the electricity already being transmitted by the coal-burning generating plants of the grid system.

The place where they propose to build the barrage is close to where the Severn tunnel runs under the river. The estuary here is two and a half miles wide, but far the greater part of it is left bare at low tide.

Right across this wide expanse the engineers suggest throwing the dam, nearly three miles of massive stonework, from the Monmouthshire to the Gloucestershire shore.

The longest part of the dam is that over the English Stones, an extensive reef, uncovered at low water.

This stretch, a mile and a third in length, is to contain 128 sluices. These will be opened to allow the incoming tide to

flow through and up the river, and be closed at the turn of the tide so that the lake of water collected above the dam rushes out with terrific force through the turbines, set in another part of the barrage, causing them to generate electricity.

Two parts of the dam will house the turbines, one part in the middle and the other on the Monmouthshire side, with 16 turbines in each.

In the middle of this great wall across the estuary are two locks to enable ships to pass up the river, and, mindful of the fisheries of the Severn and Wye rivers, the planners have provided for five fish-passes for the migratory fish.

The engineers estimate that this vast work will take eight years to build and will keep employed, directly and indirectly, 11,727 men every year of its construction. It will cost at the present price of materials £47,006,700, and it will save the country 985,000 tons of coal a year, and will provide electricity for South-East and East England, Central England, South-West England, and South Wales.

A few of the items that will be required to erect this giant dam are: 565,000 tons of cement; 4,240,000 cubic yards of stone, gravel, and sand; 71,600 tons of iron and steel; 35,000 tons of structural steel.

The Severn barrage is a grand conception, and we hope that as soon as peace comes work on it will begin.

Meteors and Shooting Stars

THE development of jet-propelled aircraft is another example of that co-operation between Britain and U.S. which has been so helpful to the Allied cause.

It has just been announced that two types of jet-propelled fighter planes have been produced in Britain, and one of these, the Meteor, has been used in action against flying-bombs. The Meteor, designed by the Gloster Aircraft Company, has two power units developed from the original design of Air Commodore Whittle by the Rolls Royce Company in collaboration with Power Jets and the British Thomson-Houston Company. These power units use paraffin, a fuel which is less inflammable than petrol. The other British machine has been produced by the De Havilland Company, the engine also being a development of the original Whittle power unit.

One of the earliest Whittle power units was sent to America, and Air Commodore Whittle himself went there to conduct further experiments. In July, 1943, a De Havilland engine was sent to the States and was used in a plane built by Lockheeds. Now the Lockheed P80 Shooting Star, which has been flying for more than a year, is being mass-produced in four factories. During all this time details of development have been freely exchanged between both countries.

There is undoubtedly a great future for the jet-propulsion unit, for not only is it less complicated and lighter than the normal aero-engine, but it consumes cheaper and safer fuels, and, moreover, there is less vibration and it is not so noisy.

Jeep is a Common Noun

THE Comptroller-general of Patents and Trade Marks in Eire has declared that the word "jeep," having "fallen into the public domain as a result of common use," has become a common noun!

This decision was given during a case in which the makers of the jeep, Willys-Overland, of Toledo, U.S.A., asked that the word should be registered as their trade mark. The refusal was based on the fact that although the word "jeep" had been used in advertisements it had never been impressed on the "goods," and was therefore not a mark.

The case was interesting in another respect, for it cleared up the mystery of the origin of the word. It has often been said that "jeep" is nothing but G.P., initials meaning "General Purpose" (surely an excellent name for this ubiquitous vehicle), but in the argument put before the Irish court it was said that the first jeep was nothing but a "nondescript little animal in a popular strip cartoon."

And so, from a little animal devised to amuse newspaper readers the name has passed to one of the outstanding transport innovations of the war and now, by way of an Irish court, into the English language. Jeep is now a common noun.

FLYING UP NORTH

FOUR million miles flying without one accident—that is the proud record of Scottish Airways Ltd, whose fleet of aeroplanes operate between Renfrew on the Clyde and the north of Scotland.

Chief pilot Captain E. E. Fresson, who has just completed 26 years as a flyer, and altogether has flown 700,000 miles, pioneered the project. It had small beginnings. In 1931 he started giving "flips" to adventurous folks, and from these flips was born Scottish Airways. Today Scottish Highlanders who have never seen a train think nothing of stepping into an aeroplane; and so air-minded have women of the

remote districts become that they do their shopping by air.

The mercy flights of Scottish Airways pilots are legion, for they carry the sick from the remote north to Renfrew, from where they are taken to Glasgow hospitals. Besides delivering newspapers to districts which normally would get papers once a week Captain Fresson and his team of pilots have succoured marooned islanders. When the island homes of the crofters were stormbound and no ship could cross the rock-strewn seas the pilots dropped mail and food, using parachutes made from flour bags.

GERMANY'S THIRD CITY

ALL eyes have been on Cologne, the first of the great German cities to be entered by the victorious armies of General Eisenhower on the Western Front.

Before Hitler placed it in peril Cologne was a city beloved by tourists, a city of golden spires. The third largest city in Germany (the position occupied by Munich in the years before the war), it was also a great centre of industry and commerce.

From its earliest day the geographical position of Cologne has made it of the greatest value to all the German States. Its foundations were laid by the Romans. Agrippina, mother of Nero, was born here, and in the later years of her life she returned to found a colony, calling it *Colonia Agrippina*, from which we get the name Cologne, and since then some of the most famous figures in history have crossed the Rhine at this point—among them the Roman Caesar Constantine the Great, and the King of the Franks, Charlemagne, fighting their way into Saxony; and in later days many a leader of the French in their numerous invasions of Germany. It was at Cologne, too, that the German Franks massed for their break through into Roman Gaul. Cologne was a foremost military centre during the First Great War; after the Armistice in 1918 the Allies occupied it until 1926.

In the Middle Ages Cologne was in the centre of an electorate; a small State ruled by the

archbishop and including the university city of Bonn; and here the archbishops were often forced to live as Cologne itself was a free imperial city, and refused their authority.

The old town of Cologne, clustering near the crowded river, has many distinctive and historic buildings. The cathedral, started in 1248 by Archbishop Conrad, is a Gothic masterpiece; its spires rise 515 feet. Evidence of the Roman Occupation can be seen in the oldest part of the Church of St Gereon, built by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine.

Cologne is a seaport, the Rhine flowing directly into the North Sea; it has excellent railway communications, and an airport. It is industrially prosperous, manufacturing textiles, machinery, and chemicals.

One of the products, Eau-de-Cologne, has carried the city's name all the world over.

In 1709 an Italian, Johann Maria Farina, mixed together oils and herbs and rectified spirits and made up the famous perfume. For years it enjoyed only a local fame, but in 1862 Edward the Seventh took his future queen, Princess Alexandra of Denmark, to Cologne, and their interest in the perfume was so great that ever since it has been a favourite far and wide.

Simple Home Recipe Against Coughs, Colds and Influenza

To bring relief to Influenza, Coughs, Colds, Head Noises, Catarrhal Deafness, nothing is so effective as the simple "Pamint" recipe which you can feel is doing you good from the first dose.

So good is this old recipe that practically all chemists now keep it bottled ready for use, though you can easily make it up yourself.

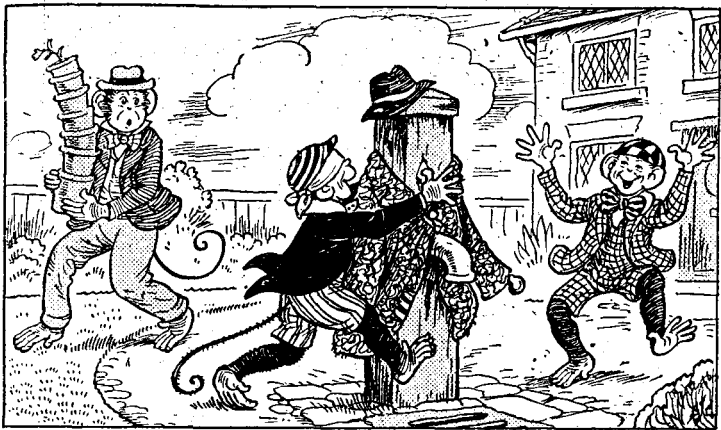
The very first dose of this Pamint Syrup will bring you real relief. You will feel it soothing the cough, easing the sore throat, clearing the stopped up passages and relieving the catarrh. Soon you'll find the trouble disappearing altogether. It's excellent for children because they like the Pamint flavour.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Pamint Syrup from your chemist to-day and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle including tax.

NOTE.—If through shortage of bottles your chemist is out of Pamint Syrup, get a 3/11 bottle of Pamint Concentrated Essences and make it up yourself.



Jacko Didn't See the Joke



JACKO and Chimp were playing blind-man's-buff in the garden one day, and, when it was Jacko's turn to be blind man, Chimp got busy. Fetching an old coat and hat, he fixed them on the pump. Jacko, hearing him near, put his arms out and firmly grasped the dressed-up pump. "Ah, this is Father!" he cried, much to Chimp's delight and Father Jacko's astonishment.

TOO MUCH

"THIS machine," said the demonstrator, "runs so smoothly that you can't feel it, so quietly you can't hear it, and as for speed—you can't see it."
"Then how do you know the thing is there at all?" asked the prospective buyer.

An Arithmetic Puzzle

CAN you put four nines together to make one hundred exactly?
Answer next week

OLD WOOD

IN Lapland 77 per cent of the trees are over 120 years old.



"Won't there be searchlights?"...

She has never known a world without searchlights. Growing up in the greatest war of all time, she does not even know what peace was like.
You are anxious to ensure that once this war is over, she makes up for the loss of so much childhood joy. You will look to her health first and make sure that 'Milk of Magnesia' is your stand-by—never absent from the medicine cabinet.
In the happier days ahead, as now, 'Milk of Magnesia' will keep her fit and free from stomach troubles.

'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

Spring's Awakening

This poem was written by a girl of 15, a refugee from Europe, who, when she came here five years ago, could not speak a word of English.

THE world is clothed in green again
And all is bright and gay,
The trees are all in bloom again,
For spring has come to stay.

The skies are blue and clear once more,
The golden sun is high,
And birds with graceful ease do soar
Above with joyous cry.

And little silvery fish do play
In brooks and winding streams
While humming bees without delay
Toil in the sun's warm beams.
And ere the dawn there falls the dew
On flowers and fields and trees,
And when the golden sun breaks through
Awakens then the breeze.

Edith Ogutsch.

WHAT BIRD IS THIS?

IN the stake, but not in the post,
In the shore, but not in the coast,
In the purse, but not in the bag,
In the cloth, but not in the rag,
In the board, but not in the plank,
In the file, but not in the rank,
In the peel, but not in the rind,
Complete a British hawk you'll find.
Answer next week



The BRAN TUB

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Badger Takes a Stroll. In the damp soil by the stream broad padmarks indicated the passing of some heavy animal.

"Notice the imprint of five toes, Don," said Farmer Gray. "A dog only makes four; these are undoubtedly Badger's."

"I thought they slept through the winter," retorted Don.

"Not entirely," answered the farmer. "During summer and autumn months Brock gets fatter and fatter. When winter comes he retires to his cosy set, deep below ground, and sleeps for long periods. Occasionally, however, he will prowl forth for a short stroll, as numerous traces of his footsteps show. It is very rare for him to venture abroad when frost is about."

FARMYARD FUN

THERE once was a farmer named Lutter,
Who had a large goat—a prize butter.
One day, being fed
The goat lifted his head,
Butting Lutter right into the gutter.

Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening Venus is in the south-west, Uranus and Saturn are in the south, and Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, March 16.

Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, March 14, to Tuesday, March 20.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Larry the Plumber, another Toytown story, by S. G. Hulme Beaman. 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.20 St Jonathan's In the Country, a three-part sequel to The Borrowed Garden, by Kathleen Fidler, produced by Nan Macdonald. Part 1—The Children Arrive.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Welsh Nursery Tunes and Folk Songs, by Hoggau'r Gogledd—a men's chorus from North Wales; followed by Around the Country-side, a discussion between William Aspdon and two young friends.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Variety from Northern Ireland.

SUNDAY, 5.20 The Story of Handel's Messiah, by L. du Garde Peach, produced by Derek McCulloch.

MONDAY, 5.20 Mary Plain's Big Adventure, by Gwynedd Rae, told by Mac. Part 3; followed by Gramophone Records; and Charley Brown tries to make money—more tales of his boyhood, by Bernard Wetherall.

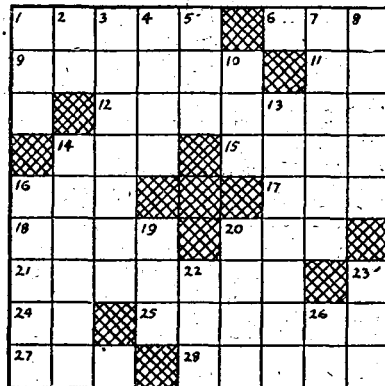
TUESDAY, 5.30 Music by the winners of the Belfast Music Competitions, from Northern Ireland.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Dried coconut kernel. 6 The foremost sail of a yacht. 9 A rectangle. 11 Compass point. 12 To regard attentively. 14 Owed by one to another. 15 To come in contact with. 16 A limb. 17 Donkey. 18 A gnawing pain. 20 Suitable. 21 The charge levied on letters. 24 Editor. 25 A clergyman. 27 To permit. 28 A literary composition.

Reading Down. 1 A tooth of a wheel. 2 A Siberian river. 3 Tills the earth. 4 A long loose garment. 5 Answer. 7 To lay out money for income. 8 Some of these plants produce sugar. 10 A precious stone. 13 Harvesters. 14 To decipher signals. 16 The folded-over part of a coat. 19 And so on. 20 Periods of time. 22 A malt liquor. 23 Frigid. 26 Indian Army.

Asterisks denote abbreviations. Answer next week.



What the Trees Give Us

THE Alder is used for piles, sluices, water-pipes, pumps, cogs of mill wheels and similar work, because the wood lasts well under water.

It makes very good charcoal for gunpowder, and the bark is used in tanning and dyeing and also for the staining of fishermen's nets.

SLIPPERY

SLIM Sam slid sleepily over the slippery, slanting slates in a slick, sloping slide.

SARCASM

A FAMOUS playwright who lent three volumes to a friend received no answer when he wrote for their return.

A second letter, then a third, failed to bring the books.

So the playwright carefully packed up the remaining volumes of the set, and sent them to his friend with this note:

My dear A.—Excuse me. I have such a dislike for odd books that I pray you kindly to accept these—they will complete your collection.



IF you are always fit and vigorous it is so much easier to be successful in games and in your school-work. To ensure such health and vigour you will find 'Ovaltine' a great help.

'Ovaltine' is a really delicious beverage, prepared from Nature's best foods—malt, milk and eggs. It provides important nutritive elements which do so much to build up nerves and brain and to create reserves of strength and energy.

Remind mother to put 'Ovaltine' on her shopping list and be sure you make it your regular daily beverage. Remember that 'Ovaltine' also has the advantage of being naturally sweet so that there is no need to add sugar.

Prices in
Gt. Britain and
N. Ireland
2/4 and 4/-.

Ovaltine